

The Cross Roads Times

Quarterly Publication of the Town of Cross Roads, Texas (Denton County)

From the Mayor's Desk

by Ross Schraeder, Mayor



budget also. We do not see any financial problems in the second fiscal quarter or, for that matter, the remainder of the fiscal year. We are seeing some increase in business activity, but not enough to warrant initiating any new major projects. Remember, our financial objectives are no debt and no Town property tax.

Wal-Mart

The Town continues to work with Lovett Commercial, the developer trying to put a Wal-Mart on the old Allegiance property at FM 424 and Hwy 380. For the first time since the original developer's project went bankrupt, it looks like some real progress is being made. Once Lovett closes the deal with both BBSSI (the bank) and Wal-Mart, other businesses will start springing up on both the Wal-Mart property and surrounding areas. Hopefully, the deal will

close this quarter. Initiation of construction of the Wal-Mart facility is of course up to Wal-Mart.

Potter Shop Road Repaving

Most of you have had an opportunity to drive on the newly paved Potter Shop Road, which was jointly paid for by Cross Roads and Denton County. Citizen comments have been very good. Some of our citizens have suggested that striping of the road would be desirable, but our engineer says that the width of the road does not meet state requirements for striping.

AT&T Fiber Optics

AT&T has completed the fiber optic line from Hwy 380 down Potter Shop Road, Tipps and Keyes to the Oak Shores development. Several residents in the development have converted to it for computer services and/or AT&T U-verse. I understand that most but not all residents in the development are served by the system. Contact AT&T if you are interested.

Other Major Projects In The Mill

We continue to work on getting a spotlight at Moseley and Hwy 380. TxDOT has just finished a new traffic analysis of the intersection and a meeting has been scheduled to discuss the

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results. Other needed highway improvements in the town will also be discussed at that time.

Additionally, the Town is in the process of working with Mustang Water to improve the water supply to some of the areas in the Town and determine what needs to be done to make sewage lines available for commercial areas. The Town is not in a financial position to put the systems in, but needs to understand where the lines need to go to support future business development.

The Survey

The Survey designed to better understand the needs and opinions

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From the Mayor's Desk *(continued)*

of our citizens was ready to send out before the Christmas holidays, but it was decided to wait until January to send it. That way more of you have time to respond. You should receive it this month. It is very important that we hear your opinions. Please take time to complete it and send it in. We want to hear from as many of our citizens as possible so that we have guidance as we decide what needs to be done for the Town.

Attention: **Farmers, Artisans, Musicians and Backyard Growers**

The Town of Crossroads Park Committee is seeking participants for our upcoming **Farmers Market and Vendor Fair**. We plan to host this event the



last Saturday of each month, tentatively from March through October.

Do you have a green thumb or know someone who does? Then plant a little extra and share the bounty!

Know someone who makes unique handmade goods or would like an audience for their musical talent?

Please spread the word to your local farmers, artisans and friends. Interested parties, please email gale.bacon@att.net for more information.

Kernels From Kay

As a retired first grade teacher there are a few things I miss about the classroom, chief among them being interacting with six year olds. They are remarkable human beings! I remember one particular girl who left an indelible impression. I had created a number of reading comprehension study sheets to prepare my students for an end of the year achievement test. One of the stories was about a boy named Andy and his friends who used various tools to build a fort. The goal of the exercise was to encourage the children to look for details when reading a paragraph and recall them when answering questions about their reading. A bright young girl raised her hand excitedly to read the title of the story and then looked up at me with a horrified expression on her face and slowly and reluctantly read "Andy's Fart". I had to leave the room. I did not question her ability – I questioned my teaching skills!

Kay Lamb



Cross Roads Business Development Information *By Bill Bacon, Economic Development Committee chairman*

Our Town's current Economic Development Committee has recommended that the Town of Cross Roads consider creating an Economic Development Corporation (EDC) to assist the Town in attracting quality businesses. Creating an EDC would allow the Town Council to increase our town sales tax by 0.25%, via approval in a public general election. For example, for each \$100 in taxable goods purchased in our town by both citizens and visitors, 25 cents would go to a special fund for promoting economic development for our Town. With additional businesses in our Town, overall revenue would increase, which would allow the Town to offer additional services to our citizens.

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Cross Roads Business Development Information *(continued)*

The following questions and answers have been developed by the Town's current Economic Development Committee to help you better understand the implications of creating and funding a Town of Cross Roads Economic Development Corporation (EDC).

No action has been taken by Council on this matter, but the Committee's proposal will likely be discussed in a future Council Meeting.

Why would Cross Roads consider forming and funding an Economic Development Corporation (EDC)?

- An EDC would provide a focused contact point for businesses who might be interested in locating their business in Cross Roads.
- The new 4B sales tax funding could be used to actively market our Town to businesses and developers that we believe will enhance our community.
- This EDC could create and maintain marketing materials, website information, demographic databases, and conduct business development workshops as needed.

What is section 4B sales tax?

- It is the most common source of revenue for economic development.
- For Cross Roads it would mean an increase of .25% to our current 8% sales tax.
- Cross Roads qualifies for this tax to fund an Economic Development Corporation.

How many Texas towns have EDCs funded by a 4B sales tax?

- There are a total of 472.
- Approximately 58 of them are the size of Cross Roads or smaller.

How do you adopt a 4B sales tax?

- Council resolution must be passed calling for an election.
- Another option is for a petition to be signed by at least 20% of eligible voters.
- An election must be held at the time of General Election (2nd Saturday in May).

Does the Town Council have to approve expenditures for permissible section 4B projects?

- Yes.
- The Town Council's oversight includes the authority to approve promotional expenditures as well.

Can the Town Council fund certain section 4B projects on their motion?

- No.

- Approval must begin with the EDC.

Does the Town Council appoint the directors of the section 4B corporation?

- Yes.
- Up to 3 of the 7 directors may be Council Members.

Can the Town Council remove an EDC director?

- All EDC directors serve at the pleasure of Council.
- They can be removed at any time.

Are EDC meetings subject to the Open Meetings Act?

- Yes.
- All meetings must be held within Cross Roads town limits.

Can the EDC incur debt?

- No.

Can Council review the financial records of the EDC?

- Each year the EDC is required to review their financial records with Town Council.

Are EDC directors paid?

- No
- However, their expenses must be reimbursed.

Must the EDC hold a public hearing prior to funding a project?

- Yes, at least one public hearing must be held.
- Notice must be published in a local paper.
- Council must approve of the expenditure.
- 60 days after hearing and approval, project can be funded.

Who receives the 4B sales tax funds?

- Retailers collect the sales tax and pay it to the State.
- The State then remits the local sales tax portion to the Town .
- Once received, the Town must transfer the funds to the EDC.

What's the bottom line to all of this information?

- Texas law supports and even encourages economic development through 4B tax receipts.
- Most Texas towns/cities have passed 4A/4B sales taxes and have formed EDCs.
- The powers of the EDC are limited by law and balanced by the role of the Town Council.
- The Town of Cross Roads currently operates at a disadvantage in carrying out economic development activities due to funding constraints.
- Of the towns with whom we compete for business

Katherine's Corner

by Katherine Ritchie, Town Secretary

ODDS & ENDS

Happy New Year, Everyone! I hope all of you had a wonderful and healthy holiday season. I have a few reminders.

- We will be having a **Spring Roadside Clean-up on Saturday, March 24th**.
- Mayor's seat and two Council seats will be up for election on the May 12, 2012 ballot. If you wish to run for office please contact Town Hall.
- Candidates' filing packages will be available January 23rd.
- The first day to file for a place on the ballot will be February 4, 2012.
- The website for the Town of Cross Roads is

Important Election Dates

Important Election Dates?

[p://www.crossroadstx.gov](http://www.crossroadstx.gov) All meetings and notices are posted there.

First day to file for place on ballot	Feb. 4, 2012
Last day to file for pace on ballot	Mar. 5, 2012
First day to apply for ballot by mail	Mar. 13, 2012
Last day to register to vote	Apr. 12, 2012
First day of Early Voting	Apr. 30, 2012
Last day to apply for ballot by mail	May 4, 2012
(Received...not postmarked)	
Last day of Early Voting	May 8, 2012

Welcome

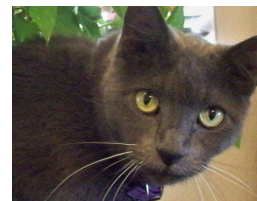
New Residents to Cross Roads

Larry and Annabelle Harn, 192 Las Colinas

James & Erica Wells, 129 Las Colinas

Mark & Elise Lewis, 183 Las Colinas

Hi. I'm Harvey,
the Town Mascot



Election Day

May 12, 2012

SPRING COMMUNITY YARD SALE

The Town of Cross Roads will host the community re-purpose/yard sale at the Town Park, on Saturday, April 14th. We hope for wonderful weather and a nice turn out of participants and shoppers.

3rd INSTALLMENT - UNDERSTANDING COMMON CODE VIOLATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURE

In the first installment I highlighted the **JUNKED VEHICLE** regulations, and last quarter I summarized another common code violation- **PROPERTY MAINTENANCE**. This installment will touch on **PEDDLERS AND SOLICITORS REGULATIONS**. Below is a summary of the town codes regarding peddling and door-to-door solicitation within the Town of Cross Roads. The complete ordinance regulations can be found online at the town website (<http://www.crossroadstx.gov/documents/code-of-ordinances>).

ARTICLE 4.03 PEDDLERS AND SOLICITORS*

The term "peddler" as used in this article shall mean and include any person who travels from place to place or from house to house, and offers goods, services, wares, subscriptions, photographs, or other merchandise for sale. A permit is required from the

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Katherine's Corner *(continued)*

town. The applicant is required to be bonded in the sum of \$1,000.00, executed by such applicant as principal and a surety company licensed to do business as such in this state. No application shall be accepted, and no permit shall be issued hereunder, without a surety bond as set forth herein. The town will issue an ID card which shall be wallet size and contain the name of the permittee, permit number, date of expiration of permit. Each permit is valid for a period of thirty (30) days. The hours of peddling are between thirty (30) minutes prior to sunrise and thirty (30) minutes after sunset except when the peddler has specific invitation and appointment with the customer.

The Town of Cross Roads has adopted Town Codes (laws) specifically designed to address health and safety issues, nuisances, and to maintain a clean environment for all citizens in our community. Town of Cross Roads does this by working in partnership with the people of Cross Roads.

COMMUNITY EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS REMINDER

If you would like to receive email notification of Town meetings and community-wide activities, please email me and place in the Subject line, " **ADD ME TO YOUR EMAIL DISTRIBUTION LIST**". My email address is townsecretray@crossroadstx.gov. I will send out information **only** using **blind copy** status so your email address will not be displayed in the address box.

COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS, AND BOARD APPOINTMENTS

The town encourages its citizens to express their thoughts, volunteer their time and talents, and to actively participate in their local government. Citizens interested in volunteering to serve on a committee are encouraged to attend a meeting of the committee of interest and to make an application for

Kids for Community

The kids in our town have had a very eventful few months. In November we had the opportunity to meet with Pastor Preston at the Mustard Seed in Aubrey. He spoke to us about the need to volunteer and to help provide for those less fortunate in our community. He asked us to remember the elderly and suggested several ways that our kids can get involved and make a difference. The kids all decorated a food donation box that we placed at Cross Roads Town Hall for donations in November. All donations were truly appreciated and were taken to the Mustard Seed prior to the holidays.



In December we met at Town Hall to make holiday cards and decorations to take to Countryside Nursing Home in Pilot Point. Later in the month, we

all met at the nursing home to sing carols, distribute cards and snacks, and spread joy to the residents. Everyone seemed to enjoy the activities. It was very rewarding to visit with those who may not always have visitors during the holidays.

January's meeting theme was "Meet Your Town and Town Council". We had a great turnout by both the children and the town council. The kids heard about the backgrounds of our council and staff and had the opportunity to interact on various topics of interest. It was exciting to hear the suggestions by the kids on what sorts of facilities we should build in our town: baseball fields, soccer fields, volleyball courts, a playground, a paintball field, etc... all great ideas! In fact, the meeting seemed to spark several interesting conversations among parents and council. So keep watching for new opportunities with our Kids for Community program in Cross Roads!

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Kids for Community (continued)

Next Meeting:

Friday, February 3

5:00 – 5:45

CR Town Hall



This meeting will give the kids an opportunity to help plan the upcoming events for the year. We'd like for everyone to come and help brainstorm a few ideas / opportunities that are of interest to the kids.

Questions / Comments:

Kim Dickey Cell: 940-597-4988

kim@ntxproperty.com

Aubrey Area Library

Santa brought a most interesting present to one of our local library members! Shaun Boyle was the first place winner in the **Step Up to the Plate** at your library baseball trivia contest. Shaun is an Aubrey citizen, an Aubrey Area Library Board member, and an avid sports fan. The contest questions were developed by librarians at the Baseball Hall of Fame and the contest was open to everyone. Shaun stated, "With over 30 years of watching, participating in, and playing the game, I still found the questions incredibly challenging!" Be sure to check out some of the biographies we have at the library on great baseball players of the past. Shaun is shown in the accompanying photos with some of the great prizes he won in the contest. Remember, that your library has something for everyone, so visit today to find your undiscovered treasure!

Kathy Ramsey, BAAS; MLS
Library Director



Aubrey Area Library
226 Countryside Drive
Aubrey TX 76227

940.365.9162 Library

940.365.9411 Fax

940.391.9180 Cell

Glen Sanders Insurance Agency *by Larry Fisher*



Let me ask you a question. What's something we all need but are reluctant to get? The answer, for me at least, is insurance. For most of us, we can better answer questions about the national economy, the best place to find good barbeque, or who is currently the front runner in the presidential

election race, than about our current insurance policies and insurance needs.

Making Cards and Decorations

We spend a significant portion of our incomes on insurance. But how do we know we're getting a good deal on our coverage, or have the right kinds of coverage that meet our changing needs? The answer to those last two questions comes more easily. We need a knowledgeable insurance agent whom we can trust and who truly puts our needs first.

That is simple to say, but not so simple to find, at least until now. He is right here in Cross Roads.

Visiting the Nursing Home

Glen Sanders, Farmers Agent, and Michelle Sons, his office manager, bring both insurance experience and a "put the customer first" value system to us and to our neighbors. Behind the big smile and friendly greeting I receive from Glen as I arrive for our appointment is an insurance professional's presence. It's almost as if I'm being greeted by an NFL linebacker or something. Oh wait... I am!



Learning about the Town Council

Glen spent six years in the NFL, beginning with the Chicago Bears and finishing his career with the Indianapolis Colts. But Glen has more to offer than stories of his time playing defense for those remarkable teams. He offers a personalized approach to meeting the specific insurance needs of his clients and their families. On that note, Glen sincerely believes in treating each customer as part

of his family. Each client's unique needs come first as he talks about insurance coverage, claim settlements, and his sense of personal integrity in conducting business.

Glen Sanders comes across as one of the most unique business people I've ever encountered. He will tell you with all sincerity that he's not in this business for the money, and he didn't have to locate his agency here in Cross Roads, but something in his heart led him here. When he arrived he discovered something that we already know. We live in a very special place! Glen grew up in a small rural town in Louisiana and in just a few short months he has grown to love the sense of community we enjoy here.

Glen shared with me his personal philosophy- that each of us needs to live in such a way as to make a positive difference in our own life, and in the lives of others. Give Glen Sanders Insurance a call, or drop by the office to meet Glen and Michelle. Let them demonstrate how their business can not only help you meet your insurance needs but also help you to become part of their growing insurance family.

With that in mind, you may want to consider dropping by their office on your way to work for a "come and go" breakfast of coffee and donuts from 7:15 – 8:30 AM on the 4th Wednesday of each month, beginning January 25th. As a special favor to Cross Roads residents, ask Glen and Michelle to evaluate your insurance needs and if you decide to move your insurance needs to their agency, give them this newsletter and receive a \$20 Visa gift card with your new policy!

Glen Sanders Insurance Agency

Business Email: <gsanders2@farmeragent.com>
8000 US Hwy 380, Suite 500
Crossroads, TX 76227
(940) 365-1268

Thanks for your generous spirit and great ideas, Kids.

Town of Cross Roads, Texas

Ross Schraeder, Mayor

Tony Russo, Mayor Pro Tem

Kim Dickey, Council Member

Larry Fisher, Council Member

Wally Kille, Council Member

Steve Smith, Council Member

Katherine Ritchie, Town Administrator

Judy Moudy, Admin. Assist.

Jeanie Burch, Editor

Cross Roads Town Hall

PHONE: 940-365-9693

FAX: 940-665-6898

www.crossroadstx.gov

TOWN HALL MEETING SCHEDULE



Town Council Meetings 3rd Monday of the month

Planning & Zoning Commission meetings 1st Tuesday of the month

Road Repair Committee meetings the Thursday before the Town Council meeting

Comprehensive Planning Committee meetings 2nd Wednesday of the month

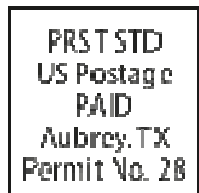
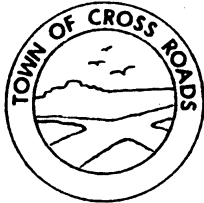
Town Council Workshop Meetings as needed

Park Board Meetings – 2nd Tuesday of the Month

All meetings start at 7:00 pm, or will be posted if different. All meetings are open to the public and held at Town Hall unless specified otherwise on the agendas, which are posted on the front window of Town Hall. Please call Katherine Ritchie at Town Hall if you would like to join a committee to serve your community.

Administrative Staff Meetings 1st Tuesday of the month at 9 am

Municipal Court held 1st Tuesday of the month at 9am



Town of Cross Roads

1401 FM 424

Cross Roads, TX 76227